

SERIES: "1ST THINGS 1ST – THIS IS WHAT WE DO"

MESSAGE: "LEAD WITH PRAYER"

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1 Timothy 2:1-4

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." [NLT]

"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned." [MSG]

1. God places a high _____ on prayer

"Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you... May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles." – 1 Timothy 1:18 [NLT]

Notice what Paul says: "I urge you, first of all to pray for all people." – 1 Timothy 2:1 [NLT]

"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know." – 1 Timothy 2:1 [MSG]

"The kind of prayer to which Paul is calling us can change the world."

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." – Philippians 4:6 [NLT]

2. God has a _____ for our prayers

The request in this passage is _____

- Pray in general: "all" people, "everyone"
- Pray specifically: "Kings and all who are in authority," "Pray especially for rulers and their governments"

The Model: "The people of God need to pray **all** kinds of prayers, for **all** kinds of people, in **all** kinds ways, to change **all** kinds of lives."

Notice what Paul says: "Pray...so that..."

- Outward Peace = "peaceful"
- Inward Peace = "quiet"
- Salvation for All = "everyone to be saved and understand the truth"

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." – James 5:16b [NLT]

3. God is _____ when His people pray

[Jesus] "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5 [NLT]

"The degree to which we believe this (Jn. 15:5) will be the degree to which we pray in all the circumstances of life."

"Changed lives for Christ change our world."

THREE QUESTION

1. Are you praying?
2. Is the kind of prayer Paul commands part of your prayer life?
3. What if God is waiting to act until you pray?